

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the Applicant's amendment filed on July 15, 2009.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brett J. Schlameus (Reg. No 60827) on 11/17/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claims 10-42 have been canceled.

Claim 1:

A method, comprising:

utilizing, by a media playback application of a consumer device, a public key associated with a component downstream from ~~[[a]] the~~ media playback application to establish a secure communication channel between the media playback application and the downstream component ~~downstream from the media playback application~~, the utilizing establishing trust between the media playback application and the downstream component;

enabling, by the consumer device, the media playback application to instruct the downstream component, by a command using the secure communication channel, to enable one or more of a number of different types of content protection technologies to protect media content that is provided over a physical connector to an output device;

requesting, by the media playback application of the consumer device, status information from the downstream component using the secure communication channel;

ascertaining, by the downstream component of the consumer device and based on the status request, whether the one or more content protection technologies are supported by hardware for the particular physical connector after the downstream component has verified an integrity of the command and the status request; and

choosing, by the media playback application of the consumer device and based on the ascertaining and status information received from the downstream component via the secure communication channel, to play a limited version of the media content if the one or more content protection technologies are not wholly supported by hardware for the particular physical connector.

Claim 6:

The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~receiving status information from the downstream component using the secure communication channel~~, wherein the status information pertains to instructions that were previously sent by the media playback application.

Claim 7:

The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~receiving status information from the downstream component using the secure communication channel;~~ wherein the status information does not pertain to instructions that were previously sent by the media playback application.

Claim 43

A system, comprising:

a consumer device having one or more processors;

means for utilizing, by a media playback application of the consumer device, a public key associated with a component downstream from [[a]] the media playback application to establish a secure communication channel between the media playback application and the downstream component ~~downstream from the media playback application~~, the means for utilizing establishing a trust between the media playback application and the downstream component;

means for enabling, by the consumer device, the media playback application to instruct the downstream component, by a command using the secure communication channel, to enable one or more of a number of different types of content protection technologies to protect media content that is provided over a physical connector to an output device;

means for requesting, by the media playback application of the consumer device, status information from the downstream component using the secure communication channel;

means for ascertaining, by the downstream component of the consumer device and based on the status request, whether the one or more content protection technologies are supported by hardware for the particular physical connector after the downstream component has verified an integrity of the command and the status request; and

means for choosing, by the media playback application of the consumer device and based on the ascertaining and status information received from the downstream component via the secure communication channel, to play a limited version of the media content if the one or more content protection technologies are not wholly supported by hardware for the particular physical connector.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 43-47, 49 and 51 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art on record either taken singularly or in combination fails to teach the claimed limitation specifically ***"requesting, by the media playback application of the consumer device, status information from the downstream component using the secure communication channel; ascertaining, by the downstream component of the consumer device and based on the status request, whether the one or more content protection technologies are supported by hardware for the particular physical connector after the downstream component has verified an integrity of the command and the status request; and choosing, by the media playback application of the consumer device and based on the ascertaining and status***

information received from the downstream component via the secure communication channel, to play a limited version of the media content if the one or more content protection technologies are not wholly supported by hardware for the particular physical connector” including all the other limitations recited in claim 1.

Independent claim 43 has similar limitations as claim 1, therefore, is also allowed for the same reason set forth above.

Dependent claims 2-3, 5-7, 44-47, 49 and 51 are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHEWAYE GELAGAY whose telephone number is (571)272-4219. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. G./
Examiner, Art Unit 2437

/Emmanuel L. Moise/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2437